

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 SCA-01

SCS-03 /092 W

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O R 151630Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3432

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: TENSION STAYS HIGH: SOCIALISTS TO HOLD RALLY

REF: LISBON 3974

SUMMARY: JULY 13 ATTACK ON PCP HEADQUARTERS IN RIO MAIOR WAS FOLLOWED BY JULY 14 BURNING OF LISBON NEWSPAPERS IN THE SAME TOWN. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) HELD JULY 14 MEETING ON ANGOLA AND SAID ADDITIONAL TROOPS MIGHT BE SENT. TROOPS, HOWEVER, MAY REFUSE TO GO. SOCIALISTS PLAN LARGE RALLY NEAR REPUBLICA EVENING JULY 15. RALLY COULD RESULT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIOLENCE, BUT IT IS PROBABLY TOO SOON TO TRIGGER COUNTRYWIDE

REACTION. END SUMMARY

1. ANOTHER INCIDENT IN RIO MAIOR: AN ANGRY CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 300 IN RIO MAIOR SEIZED EVENING DELIVERY TRUCKS AND BURNED JULY 14 EDITIONS OF LISBON "DIARIA DE LISBOA," AND "DIARIO POPULAR." RESIDENTS WERE INFURIATED BY LISBON PRESS COVERAGE OF JULY 13 ATTACK ON PCP HEADQUARTERS (REFTEL) IN RIO MAIOR AND CONTENT OF PCP AND FSP COMMUNIQUE AS PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS. MILITARY UNITS FROM NEARBY TOWN OF SANTAREM WERE PRESENT BUT DID NOT INTERVENE.

2. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND ANGOLA: SHORT COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING JULY 14 RC MEETING STATED ONLY THAT ANGOLA POLITICAL SITUATION, AND AZORES WERE TOPICS OF MEETING. AFTER MEETING, MINISTER OF LABOR COSTA MARTINS SAID GOP WOULD REINFORCE MILITARY FORCES IN ANGOLA IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN POSITION OF "ACTIVE NEUTRALISM." MARTINS ADDED THAT SOCIALIST WITHDRAWAL FROM GOP WOULD BE TOPIC OF JULY 15 RC MEETING. (COMMENT: IF GOP ORDERS TROOPS TO ANGOLA, THERE IS REAL POSSIBILITY THEY WILL REFUSE TO GO. TROOPS REFUSED TO LEAVE LISBON FOR ANGOLA ON JUNE 6 ALTHOUGH THEY WERE EVENTUALLY PERSUADED TO EMBARK. WITH ANGOLA SITUATION MUCH GRIMMER THIS TIME, THE MATTER WILL BE A TEST OF GOP AUTHORITY OVER THE SOLDIERS. END COMMENT)

3. SOCIALIST RALLY: SOCIALIST PARTY HAS CALLED FOR MASSIVE JULY 15 RALLY IN FRONT OF LISBON PARTY HEADQUARTERS TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR SOCIALIST'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM GOP. RALLY SITE IS CLOSE TO OFFICE OF NEWSPAPER "REPUBLICA" AND LARGE TURNOUT EXPECTED.

4. PCP HIDES SOCIALISTS: PCP NOTE OF JULY 15 CHARGED COLLAPSE OF REACTIONARY CONSPIRACY AND BRAZENLY CLAIMED CREDIT FOR SAVING PRIME MINISTER FROM EFFORT TO OUST HIM. STATEMENT ALSO CALLED ON PEOPLE TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND ORGANIZE TO CUT SHORT ANY "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURE."

5. COMMENT: SOCIALISTS RALLY IS FIRST ATTEMPT BY PS TO MOUNT PUBLIC PROTEST AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. PS EFFORTS TO GENERATE A LARGE DEMONSTRATION ARE HAMPERED BY THEIR LACK OF ACCESS TO THE MEDIA, ESPECIALLY THE RADIO. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEVERTHELESS, THE PS HOPES TO HAVE UP TO 100,000 PEOPLE.

6. DEMONSTRATION CLOSE TO REPUBLICA BUILDING COULD WELL RESULT IN VIOLENCE ON PART OF DEMONSTRATORS GIVEN VOLATILE MOOD OF THE COUNTRY, THE CATHOLIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN AVEIRO, THE RIO MAIOR EVENTS, THE IMPENDING PPD DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, ANGOLA, THE ECONOMIC DECLINE, AND THE INCREASING HOSTILITY TO THE AFM. ALTHOUGH THE PS RANK AND FILE,

MORE MILITANT THAN THE LEADERSHIP, MIGHT HOPE TO TRIGGER COM-
PLEMENTARY DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY, WE ARE INCLINED TO DOUBT THIS WILL HAPPEN. THE PS AND
ITS SYMPATHIZERS LACK THE LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION FOR THIS
SORT OF NATIONWIDE RESPONSE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON03999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750244-0344
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750756/aaaabxqr.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 3974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENSION STAYS HIGH: SOCIALISTS TO HOLD RALLY
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006